

wonderful individuals in my congressional district: Betti and Carlos Lidski, National Trustees of The Foundation Fighting Blindness.

The Foundation is working valiantly to find a cure for retinal degenerative diseases. These debilitating diseases currently claim the sight of over six million Americans. Through the tireless efforts of the scientists at the Foundation and through the generosity of individuals like the Lidskis, exciting strides have been made in finding a cure and providing viable treatment options for those who suffer with these illnesses.

I thank Betty and Carlos and their entire family for the love, compassion, and unwavering dedication that they demonstrate every day for the visually impaired. They are truly an inspiration, not only to our South Florida community but indeed to our entire Nation.

Gracias to Betti and Carlos.

URGING THE FCC TO COMPLETE ITS WORK

(Mr. BOSWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, as the Members know, I with many others in our Congress have served halfway around the world in a place called Southeast Asia. Sometimes we wondered how long it would take to get the equipment to us. It would take up to a month, but it always arrived. It always got there.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure all of us in this Chamber would agree that we must ensure the government operates efficiently and in a timely manner. However, a situation has come to my attention that I find very troubling.

Three months ago, the FCC adopted its Triennial Review order. I believe the economic implications of this action will be of great benefit throughout our Nation. However, the FCC has had 3 months to issue rules on this action and has done nothing. Meanwhile the companies are held hostage because, quite frankly, their hands are tied.

Mr. Speaker, how is it possible the United States can ship a large piece of military equipment halfway around the world in a shorter period of time than it takes the FCC to send its rules up a flight of stairs?

I am here today urging the FCC to complete its work and bring some certainty to the telecommunications industry so that our Nation can move forward and our economy can once again begin to grow.

JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today or tonight this body will get another

chance to vote on the Jobs and Growth package. The benefits of this bill are so obvious, one has to wonder what is going on in the minds of anyone who still opposes it. From their arguments, the opponents in the press and in this building seem to be saying, "Do not create jobs, do not trim taxes, do not stimulate the economy. Washington needs the money to spend on new programs and bigger government."

On the other hand, maybe these tax relief antagonists are saying, "We do not want a Jobs and Growth package because stimulating the employment and energizing the economy will not get us reelected".

Then again, perhaps the jobs and growth opponents are saying "Give the people our money? Oh, no, you don't. It is our money, not the people's money. Every dollar in tax relief is a dollar out of our hands. We cannot let that kind of power slip out of our control."

The truth is, listening to the tortured arguments of those who still oppose this bill makes even the casual observer want to put a bag over his head just for tuning in.

This is not rocket science. Simple economics tells us when we put more money in the hands of working families and small businesses, we get more spending, new jobs and a revived U.S. economy. It works.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, if the House does not act today or tomorrow, 80,000 Americans will be denied extended unemployment benefits on June 1. Every week thereafter, another 80,000 laid-off workers will be denied benefits, totaling \$2 million over the next 6 months. This is in addition to the one million unemployed workers who have already exhausted their extended benefits.

Last week, Democrats tried three times to get a vote on extending unemployment benefits, but each time the Republicans said no. We are now in the longest period of negative job growth since the Great Depression. The unemployed are looking for work, but they cannot find jobs. They need and deserve extension of unemployment benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that you would entertain a request to immediately consider legislation introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and myself, H.R. 1652, to extend unemployment benefits for millions of Americans who have lost their jobs, not just those who have exhausted their State benefits. This request would simply ensure that the unemployed at least get a vote on the floor before we adjourn. We have the money in the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund to pay for these benefits. That is the least we can do.

BROADBAND REGULATION

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, by most measures the United States is the most technologically advanced country in the world. One measure, however, where the U.S. is sorely lacking behind other industrialized nations is high-speed Internet access for citizens and small businesses alike. The United States is not even among the top five countries in these broadband access rates. In fact, we are behind South Korea, Canada, Taiwan and Sweden, just to name a few. The statistics for DSL, a form of broadband that uses the telephone infrastructure, are even worse. The U.S. is not even in the top 10.

The Federal Communications Commission has begun to see that regulation of DSL harms the ability of companies to deploy that technology. Part of the FCC's Triennial Review, adopted this past February, improved some of the DSL regulations. That should help make DSL deployment easier.

However, there are two problems. The first is that the FCC has yet to actually issue these rules agreed upon in February, and the second is that action in February is just a start.

The FCC is looking at whether or not to regulate DSL as a telephone service. The broadband provided over cable, satellite or wireless is not as regulated as telephone.

I urge this body to urge the FCC to move forward on this rule-making process.

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GOING OUT WITH A BANG

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Congress can recess for the Memorial Day break with a big bang. We are going to increase the debt ceiling by \$984 billion, almost \$1 trillion, and also later today the Congress will vote to borrow over \$300 billion to reduce the taxes, principally of a wealthy few in this country, under the premise that under trickle-down economics, they will invest that money in such a way it will create jobs.

Well, the last tax cut of \$1.2 trillion cost the country 1.7 million jobs and caused us to borrow another \$1 trillion, because we are now running deficits.

We could make real investments and put people back to work, investments in roads, bridges, highways, mass transit, sewer, water systems, things that increase the productive capacity of the country and the wealth of the country.

By the administration's own measures, if we diverted that money instead of borrowing it to give to wealthy people in the hope it might create the 1